INCOMING TELEGRAM / Department of State

-21 AFFORD PROTECTI... PROCESSED FOR CLASSIFIED TELEGRAM

Control: 10119
Rec'd: June 21, 1954
4:04 p.m.

FROM: Guatemala City

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 1056, June 20, 7 p.m.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
BUREAU OF
INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS
JUN 22 1954

PRIORITY

President Arbenz speech delivered at 8 p.m. last night over all Guatemalan radio stations represented no (repeat no) change in line adopted by government in face of attacks by Castillo Armas and was designed to underline Arbenz firm determination to resist. Its effect was blunted however by his extreme hoarseness and an emotional tone which at times seemed close to hysteria. Listeners differ as to whether he was nervous or angry or a combination of both.

Arbenz references to US officials were even harsher than usual: He said President Eisenhower had scant regard for his high office and, for lack of information or for other reasons, he to had joined campaign of pressure and softening up of Guatemala, a campaign whose most fiery champions were the representatives of the American multi-millionaires, such as Messrs. McCarthy, Wiley and Foster Dulles. He also said both President Eisenhower and Mr. Dulles were mistaken in saying Quatemala was living under reign of terror.

His references to Honduras and Nicaragua were especially sharp. Former had openly allowed its territory to be used for preparing and launching invasion, and latter had contributed to preparing invasion. References to US were only slightly more veiled: He said "we all know who thinks for Sr. Somoza and who holds the power behind the throne there". He also indicated that US had boycotted arms for Guatemala in preparation for invasion.

Much of speech was devoted to reassurances that people and army were united behind government. Government would not (repeat not) only use international remedies, such as appeal to UN Security Council, but would bring rebels to senses by force of arms. In conclusion he expressed complete confidence in victory.

Text by airgram.

DECLASSIFICATION DATE 1/30/78
PER Ehrman OFFICE ARA
HEADRG. EOI CASE NO. 74033 PEURIFOY

MEJ/9

Note: Mr. Leddy's office (ARA) notified 4:55 p.m., 6/21/54 HFL

Passed OSD, Army, Navy Air 6/21/54, 6 p.m. JEF

AGENT
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